

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 35-40 and 42-46 and amend claim 29, without prejudice or disclaimer, resulting in the following set of claims:

19. (previously presented) A system for operating with a plurality of portable cards each having a card memory, and a store having a plurality of products, the system comprising:

 a plurality of cash register stations, each cash register station including

 an electromagnetic detector for generating first signals

 corresponding to product pricing and for generating second signals

 identifying products selected for purchase;

 a card interface for reading third signals corresponding to product pricing from the card memory of one of the portable cards;

 a first processing unit that executes a first program in a first memory to correlate second signals with first signals,

wherein the system also includes a plurality of second processing units, each second processing unit executing a second program in a second memory, to determine a discount quantity by correlating second signals from the electromagnetic detector, in a respective one of the cash register stations, with the third signals read by the card interface, in the respective one of the cash register stations.

20. (original) The system of claim 19 wherein each second processing unit is in the respective one of the cash register stations.

21. (original) The system of claim 19 further including
a central computer that communicates product pricing information with each of
the first processing units.

22. (original) The system of claim 19 further including
a network including a common computer that communicates pricing information,
wherein the first processing unit, of each cash register station, is in the network, and
wherein the second processing unit, of each cash register station, receives the second
signals from a signal path that excludes the network.

23. (original) The system of claim 19 further including
a switch that generates a signal indicating the end of a checkout transaction for a
customer, the switch being activatable by a clerk,
wherein the second processing unit is in a signal path between the switch and the first
processing unit.

24. (original) The system of claim 19 further including
a signal path from the second processing unit to the first processing unit,
wherein the second processing unit sends a signal indicating a tender of a discount to
the first processing unit, via the signal path.

26. (original) The system of claim 19 further including

a switch that generates a signal indicating the end of a checkout transaction for a customer, the switch being activatable by a clerk, wherein a signal path between the switch and the first processing unit excludes the second processing unit.

28. (original) The system of claim 19 further including a signal path from the second processing unit to the first processing unit, wherein the second processing unit sends a signal indicating a UPC coupon to the first processing unit, via the signal path.

29. (currently amended) A system for operating with a plurality of portable cards each having a card memory for storing product discount information, and a store with a plurality of products, the system comprising:

 a plurality of cash register stations, each cash register station including
 an electromagnetic detector for generating first signals
 corresponding to product pricing and for generating second signals
 identifying products selected for purchase;
 a card interface for reading from the card memory of one of the
 portable of cards;
 a first processing unit that executes a first program in a first
 memory to correlate second signals with first signals,

a signal path between a peripheral device and the first processing unit,

a second processing unit, responsive to a signal on the signal path, that executes a second program in a second memory, to determine a discount quantity by correlating second signals with third signals from the card memory of one of the plurality of cards card, wherein the first processing unit determines a total amount due by receiving a fourth signal from the second processing unit.

30. (original) The system of claim 29 wherein the fourth signal corresponds to a discount tender.

31. (original) The system of claim 29 wherein the peripheral device is an input device.

32. (previously presented) The system of claim 29 wherein the signal path carries product identification information.

33. (original) The system of claim 29 wherein the peripheral device is the electromagnetic detector.

34. (original) The system of claim 29 further including a medium for a first computer network, wherein a first network-interface, in each cash register station, is an interface to the first computer network.

Claims 35-40 and 42-46 (cancelled)